

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The barrier cover of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 19, wherein the advertising display is a message of stenciled letters.

5. (Currently Amended) The barrier cover of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 19, wherein the advertising display is an electrical/electronic circuit comprising one or more lighting elements configured to display a message or image.

6. (Currently Amended) The barrier cover of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 19, wherein the advertising display is one or more magnetically mounted objects of a ferro-magnetic material disposed on metallic surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The barrier cover of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 19, wherein the advertising display is hook-and-loop materials or a chalkboard surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular an above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover consisting of comprising:

a molded, structural plastic article having ~~rigid or semi-rigid opaque~~ spaced-apart front and back panels ~~spaced apart by six inches or more~~, each panel having a corresponding bottom edge;

~~a semi-circular side panel connecting the front and back panels, the front and back panels being joined along all edges except the bottom edges thereof, leaving~~ ~~[[a]]~~ an elongated slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; ~~and~~

~~wherein the front and back panels smoothly transition through the side panel without sharp edges.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 8, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ each side panel ~~has an outermost edge that is arc-shaped when viewing the front or back so as to correspond to the semi-circular mid-section of the guard rail.~~

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

a ~~molded, structural~~ plastic article having ~~rigid or semi-rigid~~ front and back panels ~~spaced apart by six inches or more~~, each panel having opposing bottom edges connected to a semi-circular upper portion corresponding to the semi-circular mid-section of the guard rail;

~~a semi-circular side panel connecting the front and back panels~~ being joined on all sides except the bottom edges thereof, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display~~[[.]]~~; and a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

12. - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 11, wherein the front and back panels smoothly transition through semi-circular side edges corresponding to the tubular metal guard rail.

16. (Currently Amended) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

~~spaced-apart, opaque~~, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition

through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface[.]; and  
a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 16, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

19. (Previously Presented) A guard rail assembly, comprising:

a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends;

a guard rail cover including two spaced-apart, opaque, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 19, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

21. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 19, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

22. (New) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends an above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover consisting of:

a molded, rigid or semi-rigid plastic article having spaced-apart front and back panels, each

panel having a corresponding bottom edge;

the front and back panels being joined along all edges except the bottom edges thereof, leaving an elongated slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; and

wherein one or both of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.